

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2045

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJ: CHONA COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONALIZING RHODESIAN CONFLICT

SUMMARY: MR. MARK CHONA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA, CALLED ON AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MCHENRY JUNE 24, THE FIRST DAY OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. CHONA STATED THE US CAN'T AFFORD TO SEE THE INITIATIVE FAIL AND THAT IT IS A PURE POLITICAL FACT THAT THE POWER IS WITH THE US AND NOT THE UK. HE STATED FURTHER THAT THE US CAN'T ALLOW THE UK TO BE THE SOLE DETERMINANT AS TO WHAT IS A RATIONAL SETTLEMENT. CHONA SAID IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF THE INITIATIVE FOR THE UK AND THE US TO HELP CUT OFF THE OIL SUPPLY TO RHODESIA. HE FELT THAT CUTTING OFF THE OIL WOULD END THE WAR. HE ALSO EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN MEETING WITH MOOSE AND BRZEZINKSI WHILE IN WASHINGTON NEXT TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY. THIS TRIP IS INTENDED TO MEET WITH PRINCIPALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE US CONGRESS CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT IN RHODESIA/ ZIMBABWE, AND TO DELIVER PERSONAL MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA.

2. CHONA PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE RECENT STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL CONCERNING RHODESIAN INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE. CHONA FEELS THE POINT THAT WAS MADE
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INVITING AFRICAN, PROGRESSIVE AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HELP WAS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT SIMITH WOULD NOT MIND STRETCHING THE WAR OUT TWO OR THREE YEARS, AND MACHEL WOULD SAY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S QUEST FOR SETTLEMENT THAT THERE IS A WAR GOING ON. CHONA SEES MACHEL'S DECISION TO TAKE THIS QUESTION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS A CLEAR DESIRE TO INTERNATIONAL-

ALIZE THE CONFLICT.

3. CHONA ASKED FOR A BRIEFING ON THE LAST ROUNDS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND THE NAMIBIA CONTRACT GROUP. AMB. MCHENRY PROVIDED A THOROUGH BRIEFING CONCERNING BOTH EFFORTS AFTER ASSURING CHONA THAT HE HAD BRIEFED PRESIDENT NYERERE ON HIS TRIP BACK FROM CAPETOWN AND THAT HE HAD ALSO BRIEFED THE ZAMBIAN FOREIGN OFFICE. CHONA ASKED WHAT IS SMITH'S RESPONSE, IS HE BUYING TIME? IS HE TRYING TO PUT PRESIDENT CARTER IN BIND? MCHENRY STATED THAT IT IS HARD TO TELL WHAT SMITH IS DOING AND IT IS HARD TO DETERMINE WHETHER SMITH IS SERIOUS OR NOT. HE STATED THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT SMITH WILL HAVE SOME SHARP DIFFERENCES WITH THE NATIONALISTS, I.E. MINORITY RIGHTS AND LIMITING THE FRANCHISE.

4. CHONA REPEATED THAT HE DOESN'T SEE MUCH HOPE FOR A SETTLEMENT UNLESS THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL US SUPPORT. CALLAGHAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. THE BRITISH ARE JUST NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL IT OFF WITHOUT THE US'S STRONG SUPPORT. AMB. MCHENRY STATED THAT HE THOUGHT OWEN WAS EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND AGGRESSIVE ABOUT THE PRESENT ROUND OF TALKS.

5. CHONA STATED THAT THE UK'S INVESTMENT IN RHODESIA PRECLUDED ITS BEING AGGRESSIVE ON THE UK/US INITIATIVE. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS WORRIED ABOUT HIS PARTNERS IN THIS EXERCISE (UK/US). THE UK HAS GIVEN THE APPEARANCE OF CREATING MOVEMENT OUT OF NON-MOVEMENT. AS FAR AS THEY CAN SEE THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT ON THE PART OF SMITH. THE WAR HAS INTENSIFIED. THERE ARE INCURSIONS LIKE NEVER BEFORE. THERE IS MORE REPRESSION INSIDE RHODESIA.

6. CHONA STATED THAT THE PUBLIC POSTURE OF THE NATIONALISTS CONCERNING US INVOLVEMENT WAS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM PRIVATE POSTURE. THE PF WAS, IN FACT, PLEASED THAT THERE WAS US INVOLVEMENT. THEY ALSO KNOW OF UK'S WEAKNESS.

7. YOUNG AND MCHENRY DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR HELP WITH SWAPO AND THE NATIONALISTS OF ZIMBABWE, AND CHONA STATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ZAMBIA TO PROMOTE THE PRESENT EXERCISES BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF MOVEMENT. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO HELP WITH THE NATIONALISTS ONCE THERE CLEARLY WAS MOVEMENT. HE SAID THAT MACHEL'S JUNE 18TH STATEMENT WHERE HE STRESSED PROGRESS AND MORE SUPPORT FROM US WAS A RECOGNITION OF APPRECIATION OF

WHAT THE US WAS TRYING TO DO.
YOUNG

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